

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

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MarineFisheries Advisory September 28, 2004

WHITE SHARK DAILY UPDATE

Scientists with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) are continuing to monitor a 14-foot white shark that has been lingering within a small embayment off the coast of Woods Hole, Massachusetts. The shark has been in the area for at least the past week and its rare presence in New England coastal waters has attracted worldwide curiosity.

To date it has showed no interest in food as researchers have attempted to bait the animal several times in hope of luring it from the area. The shark has remained consistent in maintaining a circling pattern within the embayment. Stormy weather expected over the next 24 hours provides reason for cautious optimism that tidal heights may increase and the shark will leave on its own accord.

The shark appears to be in good health, based on observations made earlier today by *MarineFisheries*' Biologists using underwater cameras. Nevertheless, given the unprecedented occurrence of such a large shark in relatively shallow coastal waters, it makes for a rather unpredictable situation; and accordingly, state, federal and local authorities will be working closely to limit public access to the immediate area that contains the shark as well as surrounding areas if warranted. Public and media cooperation in this regard is appreciated, as all parties are committed to protecting the public at-large, as well as safeguarding the well-being of the shark.

Media updates including descriptions of any attempts to forcibly move the shark from the area will be posted at this site on a daily basis.